Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals. The Committee has submitted its report in January, 2006 and it has recommended for the setting up of NIPER like institutes at few other locations in India. The Committee has recommended that the concened State Governments should provide 70 to 100 acres of land free of cost for this purpose. At present discussions are going on with Governments of Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Bihar, Assam and Gujarat. Recently a team of officer from Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals and experts from NIPER, Mohali has visited Ahmedabad to see the site proposed by Government of Gujarat and also to discuss other details like facilities and support to be provided by the State Government.

(c) After getting feed back from the concerned State Governments matter would be taken up further in regard to approaching Planning Commission, Ministry of Finance and also amendment of existing Act on NIPER, etc. No final decision has been taken in this respect as yet by the Government.

Gas for chemical factories

2293. MS. MABEL REBELLO : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) how many fertilizer plants of the country are getting gas as their feedstock;

(b) what per cent of requirement is met by gas by these fertilizer plants;

(c) whether it is a fact that there is a wide gap between actual demand and actual supply and if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when fertilizer companies would have self-sufficiency of gas as their feedsock?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (d) A total number of 12 fertilizer companies are receiving gas and utilizing gas as feedstock at 14 locations. The supply of gas was 27.664 MMSCMD during 2005-06 against the requirement of 34.608 MMSCMD. Thus, 79.9 per cent of requirement of gas was met.

Due to inadequate availability of gas, there is a gap between demand and supply of gas for fertilizer sector. For meeting the shortfall of gas for the fertilizer industry, the Department of Fertilizers is in constant interaction with the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and prospective suppliers of natural gas and LNG.

Objection by Ministry of Commerce and Industry on price control of medicines

2294. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has opposed the Department of Chemicals' move to bring 663 formulations under price control as part of National Pharmaceutical Policy;

(b) if so, the detailed reasons cited by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry;

(c) whether Government have prepared any plan to bridge the gap in views between the two Ministries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, by when the issue would be resolved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (d) Based on the recommendations of the Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. Pronab Sen, Principal Advisor, Planning Commission as well as feedback received from other stakeholders the Government have formulated a Draft National Pharmaceutical Policy, 2006 which alongwith a draft Cabinet Note has been circulated to various Ministries/Departments seeking their comments. Comments of many of these Ministries/ Departments including Ministry of Commerce and Industry have been received and are being examined to make necessary modifications in the Policy wherever deemed justified. On finalisation of the draft policy, it would be placed before the Cabinet for approval at an early date.